

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 H-01 INR-07 PM-04 NSC-05  
CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /045 W  
-----261056Z 122316 /20

O 261010Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 201  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY  
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY  
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY  
USDELMC PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR PRIORITY  
CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN PRIORITY  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES PRIORITY  
DIRNSA PRIORITY

S E C R E T ATHENS 3778

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: MARR PFOR GR US  
SUBJECT: US-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS: NEA MAKRI  
DCS AND AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE

REF: ATHENS 3743(DTG 251354Z APR 77)

1. THE SPEED WITH WHICH WE RESPOND TO UNFOLDING DEVELOPMENTS  
IN THIS ROUND WILL BE A DETERMINING FACTOR IN HOW FAST WE  
CAN ACHIEVE AN OVERALL AGREEMENT. THEREFORE, HERE AND  
IN WASHINGTON, WE SHOULD URGENTLY FOCUS ON THE TWO ISSUES  
WHICH ARE LIKELY TO CAUSE US PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES, I.E.  
NEA MAKRI/DCS AND AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE ASSISTANCE.

2. NEA MAKRI/DCS: DURING THE APRIL 25 WORKING GROUP  
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MEETING, THE GREEKS REMINDED US OF THEIR BASIC  
REQUIREMENT TO SHOW SOMEHOW THAT THE CONTINUATION OF  
U.S. ACTIVITIES AT NEA MAKRI AND IN THE U.S. DEFENSE  
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN GREECE WILL RESULT IN A DIRECT  
CONTRIBUTION TO GREEK NATIONAL DEFENSE. THEY STRONGLY  
DISAGREED WITH OUR IDEA OF INCLUDING COMMUNICATIONS  
EQUIPMENT IN THE PARITY IN PROCUREMENT NOTE ON THE BASIS

THAT THIS WOULD PROVIDE THEM NOTHING EXCEPT AN LOA WHICH IN ANY CASE COULD BE OBTAINED WITHOUT A PROVISION IN THE PARITY NOTE. IF THE GREEKS REMAIN ADAMANT ON THIS ISSUE, AND IN THE FACE OF OUR INABILITY TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE GUARANTEES THEY DESIRE, WE SEE THE FOLLOWING POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION:

A. MAINTAIN OUR PRESENT POSITION AGAINST COST AND DELIVERY GUARANTEES, LEAVING THIS AS POTENTIALLY THE LAST UNRESOLVED ISSUE IN THE HOPE THE GREEKS WILL ACQUIESCE IN THE END.

B. OFFER ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL QUID AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR SPECIFIC COST GUARANTEES, SUCH AS AN INCREASE IN THE \$700 MILLION SECURITY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE. (THIS QUID MIGHT ALSO BE USED TO FACILITATE OUR DISCUSSIONS ON SOUDA COST SHARING.)

C. DISCONTINUE FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF A PARALLEL HELLENIC NAVY FACILITY AT NEA MAKRI AND EXPANSION OF THE GREEK DCS IN FAVOR OF RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS OVER DIRECT GREEK PARTICIPATION IN U.S. NAVY ACTIVITIES AT NEA MAKRI AND IN THE U.S. DCS.

3. AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE ASSISTANCE: WE SEE SOME CHANCE OF DEFERRING DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF THE EQUIPMENT PACKAGE ITSELF TO A FORUM OUTSIDE DCA NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO SKIRT THE ISSUE. ANY FURTHER DELAY IN BEGINNING MEANINGFUL

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DISCUSSIONS ON THIS ISSUE WOULD SERVE TO DAMAGE OUR CREDIBILITY AND STRETCH OUT THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. ACTION REQUESTS:

A. NEA MAKRI/DCS - REQUEST COMMENT ON POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION SPECIFIED IN PARA 2 ABOVE.

B. AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE ASSISTANCE -- REQUEST DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN THE INTERIM, REQUEST BY OOB APRIL 27 APPROVAL TO INFORM THE GREEKS OF THE FOLLOWING:

(1) THAT THE U.S. FORMALLY RECONFIRMS THE COMMITMENT MADE DURING THE LAST ROUND THAT THE USG WILL CONTRIBUTE THE VALUE (\$5.5 MILLION) OF THE ORIGINAL U.S.-PROPOSED PACKAGE TOWARD THE MORE COSTLY SYSTEM DESIRED BY THE HELLENIC AIR FORCE

(2) THAT THE MANNER WITH WHICH WE PLAN TO SATISFY  
THIS COMMITMENT, I.E. BY SOME TYPE OF FUNDS TRANSFER,  
EQUIPMENT LEASE, OR BOTH, WILL DEPEND ON THE SPECIFIC  
SOURCE OF FUNDS, A DETERMINATION WHICH IS NOW BEING  
MADE IN WASHINGTON.

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** INSTRUCTIONS, AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS  
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